

What's New in the MPDC

FEBRUARY 11, 2002

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET CALLS FOR MONEY TO REIMBURSE DC FOR NATIONAL EVENTS

The large number of marches, demonstrations and other major events that take place in DC creates unique challenges – and additional expenses – for the MPDC. Now, at the urging of DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, President Bush's fiscal year 2003 federal budget submission to Congress includes \$15 million to compensate the District for expenses related to national events in DC, including the cost of terrorist threats during such demonstrations. Norton sought funding for her Public Safety Reimbursement Act to compensate the District for the costs of demonstrations addressed to the federal government, national issues and national events that occur in DC. Norton argued District taxpayers should not have to pick up the tab for police, fire and other emergency services when Americans use these services to redress their national grievances. The Public Safety Reimbursement Act is one of Congresswoman Norton's top three priorities that are included in the President's budget proposal for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 2002. Read Congresswoman Norton's news release at:

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group will hold their Spring 2002 meetings in DC on April 21-22. The MPDC is already formulating plans to respond to any demonstrations that may occur in conjunction with this event. Additional information will be provided to the public as the meetings approach and plans are developed.

www.house.gov/norton/20020205.htm

LEVEL OF COORDINATION IMPROVING ON CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS IN DC

The MPDC has put in place a number of initiatives that promote greater coordination with the other agencies that investigate child abuse cases in DC, Assistant Chief Alfred Broadbent told the DC Council this week. Testifying before the Council's Committees on the Judiciary and Human Services, Broadbent stated that new procedures mean that the MPDC and the Children and Family Services Agency are initiating joint investigations in the majority of serious abuses cases, and the agencies are working together and sharing information in all serious abuse cases. Broadbent said the MPDC supports expansion of the Children's Advocacy Center, a facility that promotes the investigation of child abuse cases in a victim-sensitive environment. He also indicated the MPDC would support the use of Multi-Disciplinary Teams in certain very serious abuse cases, but opposes their being mandated in all cases. Finally, Broadbent updated Councilmembers on various MPDC initiatives, including the Family Violence and Child Protection Unit, the Special Victims Unit (which investigates all juvenile child deaths), and programs to combat domestic violence and youth crime. Read the Assistant Chief's entire statement at:

A/C Broadbent also reported some encouraging news with respect to serious youth crime in the District: the number of juvenile homicide victims in DC has dropped from 28 in 1999 to 9 in 2001, a reduction of 68 percent.

mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2002/020402.shtm

MPDC EMPHASIZES CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY AS NEW STUDY SHOWS WIDESPREAD PARENTAL MISTAKES

Almost half of parents are making major mistakes when it comes to protecting their children in motor vehicles, according to a new study by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. In the largest interactive, observational survey of child restraint use in America, the Campaign found that 33 percent of children ages 14 and under were riding in the wrong restraint type for their age and size, and 14 percent were riding completely unbuckled. Older children were more likely to be both unrestrained and in the wrong restraint. In light of these findings, the MPDC is re-doubling its efforts to educate parents about DC's child passenger safety laws, the resources available to them and ongoing enforcement efforts. Under DC law, all children must be in an approved child safety seat until they are at least three years old. However, the MPDC recommends that children use a child safety seat or booster seat until they are at least 4' 9" tall, weigh about 80 pounds, and are approximately eight years old. Learn more about child passenger safety in DC at:

For details on the SAFE KIDS report, "Child Passengers at Risk in America: A National Study of Restraint Use," click on:

[www.safekids.org/
tier3_cdcfm?content_item_id=5150&folder_id=300](http://www.safekids.org/tier3_cdcfm?content_item_id=5150&folder_id=300)

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/childseat.shtm

DEPUTY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER ONE OF CIVILIAN CAREER VACANCIES IN THE MPDC

The MPDC is looking to hire a deputy chief information officer, a civilian position that will serve as the director of computer operations and coordinator of applications development within the Information Technology Division. Among other duties, the deputy CIO will be responsible for managing a wide range of IT resources and investments, and for assisting the chief information officer in developing and implementing IT policies, plans and procedures. The deputy CIO position is one of several civilian career positions the MPDC is currently recruiting for. Learn the details on these career opportunities, including information on how to apply, at:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Chief Ramsey's monthly appearance on WTOP Radio's "Ask the Chief" program, originally planned for February 7, has been rescheduled for Friday, February 15 at 10 am. You can submit questions for the Chief ahead of time at: www.wtop.com/news/ask_ramsey.jhtml
- ◆ Starting next week, the MPDC, in conjunction with several other youth crime prevention organizations, tips off a City-Wide Anti-Violence Event (CWAVE) basketball tournament. The four-week event will showcase some of the best amateur basketball talent in DC, while bringing together young people from different neighborhoods for athletics, fellowship, communications and life-skills training. More information at: mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

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